

Packard Hall Apartments to be Sold, Rehabilitated with Federal Grant Help

CUDAHY – (March 2, 2010) – A subsidized housing apartment building on Packard Avenue that is in foreclosure will be sold and rehabilitated thanks to a partnership with neighboring communities, the county and a grant from the federal government.

The City of Cudahy has been awarded \$350,000 through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) to acquire and restore Packard Hall at the intersection of Packard and Somers Avenues (4932 South Packard Avenue) just north of Speedway gas station.

The grant comes after Cudahy formed a regional housing consortium with the cities of Milwaukee and West Allis and Milwaukee County to apply for available federal community development block grant funds.

“This is another example of how Cudahy continues to develop outstanding partnerships with public and private entities,” said Mayor Ryan McCue. “The City is being proactive to ensure that Packard Hall remains viable.”

The building, formerly owned by Tri-Corp Housing, Inc., has 18 one and two bedroom units. Cudahy is now working with Real Estate Equities to take over the property. Michael Peine Architects has agreed to provide free design renderings.

Lara Fritts, Director of Economic Development, says the City hopes to close on Packard Hall by April. Rehabilitation should begin shortly after that. When complete, nine apartment units will remain low-income housing and the other nine will be moderate-income housing.

Meanwhile, Cudahy will continue to seek out more available federal housing funds for distressed homes and apartments in the City.

“We started this process last March and are committed to working with this outstanding consortium to find other projects that are eligible for NSP monies,” Fritts said.

The Neighborhood Stabilization Program provides assistance to state and local governments to acquire and redevelop foreclosed properties that might otherwise become sources of abandonment and blight within their communities.

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Historic Downtown Cudahy Experiencing Transformation

CUDAHY – (March 12, 2010) – More properties on Packard and Layton Avenues in downtown Cudahy will be getting facelifts soon. The City's Design Review Board gave its stamp of approval to four additional façade improvement projects Tuesday night. The properties are:

- 4745-47-49 S. Packard Ave. (The Soup Ladle and vacant tenant space)
- 4751-53 S. Packard Ave. (Fili's Family Restaurant)
- 3534 E. Layton Ave. (Layton Gyros)
- 4770 S. Packard Ave. (former Baron's Appliances)

More than a dozen downtown properties have now been approved for façade improvement grants to help cover the cost of exterior renovations.

“It's going to be an exciting summer as more and more of these façade improvements get underway,” said Cudahy Mayor Ryan McCue. “Our historic downtown is experiencing an extraordinary transformation, which should bring more businesses and jobs to Cudahy.”

Cudahy's Façade Improvement Program was launched in the summer of 2009 in conjunction with the creation of a new Design Guidelines Manual, to enhance the quality and character of the downtown area. The manual, which will be completed this spring following a final public open house and review session with City officials, will present a set of general design guidelines for new construction and rehabilitation downtown and in key corridor areas of Cudahy.

Lara Fritts, Director of Economic Development, says the City couldn't be more pleased with the response they've gotten to both these projects.

"We've received great input to create a Design Guidelines Manual that preserves the character of Cudahy's architecture, building materials and urban design features," Fritts said.

Here is a list of other properties approved for façade improvements by the Community Development Authority (CDA):

- 3545 E Layton Ave (Sidello Building)
- 4630 S Kinnickinnic Ave (Rosebud/Kohl's Food)
- 3620 E Layton Ave (former Majestic Theater)
- 4758 S Packard Ave (South Shore Cyclery)
- 3465 E. Layton Ave (Pipero Properties)
- 4760-64 S Packard Ave (Copper Nugget)
- 5036 S. Packard Ave. (Vnuks)
- 3552 E. Layton Ave. (Dr. E. J. Tomasik)
- 4805 S. Packard Ave. (former Breakwater Records soon to be the Gift Shoppe)
- 4871 S. Packard Ave. (Time Outt)
- 4666 S. Packard Ave. (former Suzy's Café soon to be Hibachi Express)
- 4960 S. Packard Ave. (Lakeside Hair Studio)

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Whitnall Avenue Storm Sewer, Repaving Project Moving Forward

CUDAHY – (March 10, 2010) – Often described as the worst road in Cudahy, Whitnall Avenue will be getting much-needed repairs this spring and summer.

The City is getting \$60,000 in federal stimulus funds to help cover the costs of storm sewer improvements and pavement resurfacing.

"We hear more complaints about Whitnall Avenue than any other street in Cudahy," said Mayor Ryan McCue. "I am so pleased that we are finally going to be able to repave it."

Drainage is poor or non-existent in many areas along Whitnall. Mary Jo Lange, City of Cudahy Director of Public Works, says crews will install 1,200 feet of storm sewer and also patch, widen shoulders and lay down thick asphalt.

"There have been questions about why the City is not expanding Whitnall or making major road improvements. But before those discussions can even take place we need to address the significant storm water issues in the area," Lange said. "Our engineering staff is studying all possible storm water options and improvements, but implementation will take planning and funding over a five to ten year period."

The storm sewer project will begin in May and be completed in August. Pavement resurfacing will start after that, and should be finished in November. Whitnall Avenue will be closed to through traffic during this time, but will remain open to businesses and residents.

CUDAHY COMMON COUNCIL PASSES RESOLUTION REQUESTING 794 EXTENSION STUDY COMMITTEE

CUDAHY – (March 12, 2010) -- Cudahy has joined Milwaukee County in urging the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Committee (SEWRPC) to create a study committee to investigate the feasibility and desirability of extending the Lake Parkway (Interstate 794) to Highway 100 at Ryan Road in Oak Creek, or a connection farther south in Racine County.

The Cudahy Common Council passed a resolution requesting the 794 study committee, stating that the Lake Parkway is an important link from the Hoan Bridge to Cudahy, St. Francis and South Milwaukee, carrying more than 46,000 vehicles per day to and from the bridge.

Mayor Ryan McCue says the City will remain an active participant in the debate about the future of the Lake Parkway and the Hoan Bridge. In November of 2008 the Common Council formally objected to any discussions about the possible demolition of the Hoan Bridge, and asked that bridge repair be properly examined and remedied.

"The Hoan and 794 are vital economic links between the South Shore and downtown Milwaukee," the Mayor said.

Last month the Milwaukee County Board unanimously passed a resolution to study extending 794 as a four-lane interstate to East Ryan Road in Oak Creek. The South Milwaukee Common Council also passed a similar resolution.

Public hearings on the issue are planned.

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Residents, Property Owners Invited to Design Guidelines Open House

CUDAHY – (March 22, 2010) – Cudahy residents and property owners are invited to an open house to see and discuss the final draft of the new Design Guidelines Manual for commercial and industrial properties in the City.

The open house will be Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at City Hall from 4:30 until 6:30 p.m. Immediately afterward there will be a joint meeting of the Common Council and Design Review Board to review the final draft.

The Design Guidelines Manual will present a set of general design guidelines for new construction in downtown and key corridor areas of Cudahy, to preserve the character of the architecture, building materials and urban design features. It will also provide rehabilitation design guidelines for historic properties.

Winter & Company, based in Boulder, Colorado, is facilitating the development of the manual. Winter & Company is one of the country's leading consulting firms in the creation, review and implementation of urban design guidelines.

Cudahy's Design Guidelines Manual is expected to be finalized this spring.

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Drunk Driving Arrests Up in 2009 in Cudahy

CUDAHY – (March 10, 2010) -- The City of Cudahy Police Department saw a rise in drunk driving arrests with 79 in 2009 as compared to 72 in 2008.

This increase is partially due to the Police Department's participation in the Multi-Jurisdictional High Visibility OWI Enforcement Initiative, for which the Cudahy Police Department receives \$10,000 in grant funding.

This program involved numerous agencies from around the area including city and town police departments, as well as the Wisconsin State Patrol, Milwaukee County Sheriff's Department and the Waukesha County Sheriff's Department. Participating agencies coordinated special times to jointly step up patrol and visibility in an effort to get more impaired drivers off the road and reduce drunk driving-related deaths and injury.

The times for these increased patrols were based upon statistical data from a nationwide study indicating times of the day and days of the week when there is a need for increased drunk driving enforcement. The initiative partnered local law enforcement agencies with local media outlets to make the public aware and get them involved in reducing drunk driving.

Chief Thomas Poellot stated, "Drug and alcohol impaired driving presents an unacceptable and unnecessary risk to public safety. Through education and strict enforcement we will reduce traffic related injuries and deaths."

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